

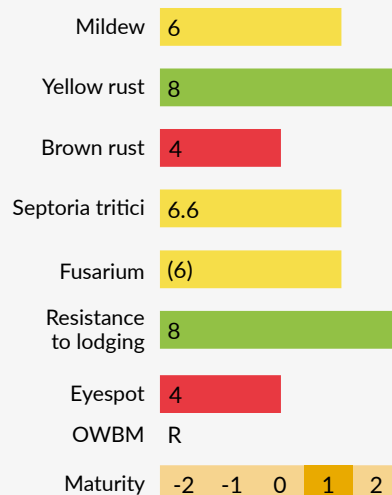
Agrovista
exclusive

SY Nairn

SY Nairn is one of the most exciting wheats which has come to market in recent years fitting the important drilling position of a short, stiff, early drilled wheat, with exceptional disease resistance, strong spring vigour, good grain quality, OWBM resistance and end market demand.

SY Nairn

- Buy back grain contracts available
- Short, stiff early-drilling soft feed wheat with high specific weight and distilling capability
- Good autumn vigour, with prostrate growth habit
- Strong adult yellow rust resistance 2025 and robust defence against mildew, septoria tritici and fusarium ear blight
- Suited to fertile and early drilling situations
- OWBM resistant



Group 4 soft

REGION	YIELD
UK	104
EAST	102
WEST	105
NORTH	(106)
Untreated yield	87
First cereal	104
Second cereal	104
Light soils	(104)
Heavy soils	103
Spec. weight	77.2



SY Nairn has an interesting growth habit – quick to establish, with superb autumn vigour, but slowing down through stem extension so that it does not become over-forward and at risk of grain fill being damaged by late frosts or over-keen liquid fertiliser applications.



SY Nairn, bred by Syngenta, is from a cross between Graham and LG Skyscraper and exhibits traits from both parents, along with some surprising extras that make this variety a most interesting and exciting addition to the Agrovista portfolio.

Surprisingly for a Skyscraper cross, SY Nairn is both short and stiff. In fact, it was the shortest winter wheat in this years AHDB trials at 74cm when treated with plant growth regulator and 85cm untreated. Naturally those heights are matched by very stiff straw making SY Nairn ideally suited to fertile ground or early drilling situations.

SY Nairn has an interesting growth habit – quick to establish, with superb autumn vigour, but slowing down through stem extension, reaching maturity at + 1 days to control.

Luke Palmer at Strettham, Cambridgeshire is growing SY Nairn for the second time this year and highlighted the speed of establishment during his morning crop walks back in November following an unusually dry period through October when the crop was drilled.

SY Nairn has a prostrate growth habit with vigorous leaf growth.

Our technical team continue to assess variety development through to spring and recent assessments at our Dennington site in Suffolk in plots drilled 26 September 2025 highlight SY Nairns growth habit.

Initially not quite as quick as such varieties as KWS Extase, but its rate of growth through early and mid-March has been well ahead.

Winter wheat variety trial Dennington
Drilled 26 September 2025

Variety	% ground cover (Canopeo data)			
	12/11/2025 n=10	11/12/2025 n=4 per plot	07/03/2026 n=4 per plot	19/03/2026 n=4 per plot
SKYFALL	34.9	57.59	63.71	70.26
KWS ARNIE	31.5	51.3	63.14	69.68
KWS EXTASE	32.8	67.3	66.8	70.03
BAMFORD	32	58.93	63.86	60.56
SY NAIRN	40	58.54	71.79	74.38
CHAMPION	38.3	53.96	64.08	63.63
KWS DAWSUM	34.5	56.97	64.47	59.35
LG TYPHOON	36	43.04	61.46	60.68
PALLADIUM	35.6	64.06	73.69	67.63

Disease resistance

The parental pedigree of SY Nairn offers scarce European genetics from Graham-essential to bring diversity into an otherwise narrow gene pool of UK pathogen resistance.

There are whispers of potential brilliance from its other parent Skyscraper, a significant variety for yield and soft endosperm end use opportunity. Skyscraper itself has a rich heritage born out of Santiago and even Claire for soft quality and Wizard from which SY Nairn's short and stiff straw may be derived.

SY Nairn has an 8 for adult yellow rust resistance, though like the majority it is seedling susceptible. It has a good level of mid-range resistance to mildew, fusarium and septoria tritici representative of multi-gene defence rather than one risky dominant gene. Growers will need to protect against brown rust though where conditions favour this disease. SY Nairn is orange wheat blossom midge resistant.

One of the principal markets anticipated for SY Nairn will be in the northern half of the UK where soft feed types have opportunity in distilling and biofuel. SY Nairn's rapid establishment has drawn keen interest this season here too with early adopter crops proving popular with growers and agronomists alike.

Agrovista Area Sales Manager Pete Richardson was lucky to get some SY Nairn sown near Prestwick, Southern Ayrshire this autumn. "I'm very pleased with the look of the SY Nairn. This customer has eight varieties of wheat and Nairn is holding its own. There is some LG Redwald in the same field and the Nairn is a full tiller ahead currently (GS 21-22)."

Pete visited the crop again on 20 March and continues to be enthusiastic for this promising variety. "Looking well, working away steadily and without too much disease. Tillering very well"

"The picture with plants pulled out showing Redwald left and SY Nairn right and growing in the same field. The Redwald has more height but is a full tiller down on the Nairn. I am very much liking the look of this variety, and it has stood up to a very wet autumn and winter as good and better than other varieties on the farm. To produce an extra tiller, I would say is showing a resilience to stressful conditions.

Pete Richardson has good reason to be excited by SY Nairn, performance in Scotland harvest 2025 placed it 2% above alternative soft feed variety Sparkler and 8% higher yielding than RGT Hexton.

Northern Regional Seeds Manager Marc Lanham also has his eyes firmly fixed on Nairn. Based in Holderness, East Yorkshire, but looking after the whole of the northern region Marc is always on the lookout for short, stiff varieties ideal for early drilling or to follow break crops where nitrogen is often left from the previous crop.

SY Nairn is not a variety for light land. Dry conditions do not suit short varieties as stem carbohydrate reserves are rarely sufficient to support high yielding crops. This has meant that for 2025 season where large parts of the UK suffered drought conditions SY Nairn's performance in trials was lower than normal.



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Pete Richardson

Agrovista Area Sales Manager

Buy back contract opportunity

'Soft' refers to the structure of the starch within the grain. To be designated 'soft' the variety must carry two specific genes, PIN A and PIN B, which together form a protein complex known as friabilin. Wheat varieties containing this protein exhibit a softer endosperm and break into finer particles more readily during milling, with lower levels of damaged starch granules compared to hard endosperm varieties.

Working in partnership with end users Agrovista have secured a buy back opportunity for SY Nairn grain specific to this variety.

A fantastic crop that yielded well above the farm average...

A late-sown seed crop of SY Nairn exceeded all Cambridgeshire grower Luke Palmer's expectations last season, despite the very dry weather during spring and early summer.

It's robustness stood out early on, setting it up for the difficult season.

The 22ha crop, grown near Stretham, Ely, was drilled in late November on fen soil after potatoes. "We subsoiled and disced before drilling," says Luke. "The field was a bit wet in places, but overall it went in very well. We carried out a robust blackgrass strategy, but the Nairn shrugged it off."

The variety exhibited quite a prostrate growth habit to begin with, but soon grew away, he recalls. "We used a low seed rate as supply was limited, but one thing we noticed was Nairn's strong early root development and the really good amount of tillers. In the spring the crop just got on with it."

Luke applied the farm standard rate of nitrogen. "A lot of feed wheats are quite hungry, but this did well on 150kg/ha, based on green leaf area and tissue analysis. I'm not saying it always will – this season is different and we have already applied quite a bit of nitrogen to our wheats."

PGR and fungicides are applied according to variety scores. "Nairn is relatively good on all

fronts and there was no Septoria to be seen so we applied a relatively cheap fungicide programme," says Luke. "There was a bit of yellow rust about but the variety was fine with that."

He applied tebuconazole at T0, an "incredibly cheap" T1 based on azoxystrobin, followed by benzovindiflupyr and prothioconazole at T2 and prothioconazole plus tebuconazole at T3.

PGR consisted of reduced rate trinexapac at T0, followed by chlormequat. "Nairn has good stiff straw and it stood well, even on the lush fen," says Luke.

The crop was cut at the beginning of August. "It beat the farm average, yielding over 9t/ha, which was fantastic," says Luke. "Seed quality was excellent, with really good vigour and a specific weight above 80kg/hl. Considering how dry it was I call that a winner."

Luke is growing 100ha of Nairn this season, almost five times as much as before. "I don't grow many Group 4s but the Nairn was that good. And this year's crop, drilled in October, looks even better. Had I not been asked to grow the variety for seed I would probably have grown it commercially."

